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Linslade Urban District Council

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1958

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1958

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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H.W. Costiff, Esq.,

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

R.B.A. Turney Esq.,

COUNCILLORS:

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

F. Seymour, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W. Meredith, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
6, Leighton Road,
Linslade.

27th May, 1959

To the Chairman and Members of
Linslade Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The Birth Rate still maintains its high level and for the third year in succession is the highest of the 20 County Districts. It is nearly 4 points higher than that for the rest of the Country.

The Death Rate shows a rise over the previous year but still remains slightly less than the rate for the Country as a whole. Of the 44 deaths 24 were due to Heart and Allied diseases and Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows the very satisfactory return of nil for the year.

Thanks to increased supplies of vaccine, Poliomyelitis vaccination was stepped up during the year, and by the end of the year it was estimated that 75% to 80% of children in the six-months to 15-years age group had taken advantage of this vaccination.

Towards the end of the year the Minister extended the age limit to 25 years. The response from these older age groups has been poor. This is a pity because, although the incidence of the disease in the young adult is not so great as in the younger children, it is generally much more severe when it does occur in the paralytic form.

Once more I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Uphill, your Surveyor and Health Inspector, Mr. Meredith, and their staffs.

I am,
Your Obedient Servant,

D.H. WALDRON.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1958

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL	1957	1958
Area in acres	1,693	1,693
Population	3,540	3,740
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,247	1,303
Rateable Value	42,588	43,229
Rate in the £	21/-	21/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£168	£178

2. BIRTHS		
Legitimate (Male)	30	36
" (Female)	36	38
Illegitimate	2	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	19.4	20.1
" " " " " (Bucks)	16.7	17.3
" " " " " (England & Wales)	16.1	16.4

3. DEATHS		
Males	20	24
Females	19	20
Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.9	11.4
" " " " " (Bucks)	9.7	9.8
" " " " " (England & Wales)	11.5	11.7
Still Births	1	1
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	Nil
" " " " (Bucks)	0.55	Nil
" " " " (England & Wales	0.47	0.43

4. INFANTILE MORTALITY

	1957	1958
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 births	29.4	Nil
" " " " " " " (Bucks)	21.6	16.4
" " " " " (England & Wales)	23.0	22.5

5. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	1957			1958		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	3	1	4	5	3	8
Diabetes	0	1	1	1	1	2
Haemhorrage into Nervous System	2	3	5	1	5	6
Heart Diseases	9	6	15	7	3	10
Pneumonia	1	2	3	1	1	2
Bronchitis & Other Respiratory Diseases	2	0	2	3	0	3
Digestive Diseases	0	0	0	0	1	1
Congenital Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide & Accidents	1	0	1	3	3	6
All other causes	2	6	8	2	3	5
Totals	20	19	39	24	20	44

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

For general cases, accidents and infectious disease, two motor ambulances and one car for sitting cases are maintained in the district.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at the Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the second and fourth Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session. Attendances by children during the year numbered 882.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals received cases from the area:-

Royal Bucks, Aylesbury
Tindal, Aylesbury
Isolation, Aylesbury
Luton and Dunstable
Spittlesea, Luton.

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

55,849,000 gallons of water were abstracted during the year, showing an increase on the previous year of 3,910,000 gallons. This increase was of course due to the large scale residential development previously referred to. As close a check as possible was kept on all forms of wastage. Practically the whole of the year's abstraction was once again from No. 3 borehole. The Harland submersible pump installed in this borehole has given first class service since it was last removed for maintenance purposes in February 1957. This fact is to be appreciated all the more, when it is realised that the combined yield from the Council's other two boreholes is insufficient for the town's requirements.

During the year, constant vigilance was kept on the quality of the water being distributed and precautionary chlorination continued. Of 109 samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, only 5 returned unsatisfactory results.

Precautionary measures were taken as a safeguard against the possible contamination of the underground water resources in the locality, resulting from the tipping of refuse suspected to have contained cyanide into a disused gravel pit in Leighton Buzzard. Over a period of several weeks six samples from No.3 borehole were taken and submitted for examination. The results in each case showed an absence of cyanide.

The last day of the year brought what might well have been a real tragedy with the collapse and total destruction of the pumphouse and equipment over No. 2 borehole. Fortunately no one was injured. The precise cause of the collapse was not identified, but underground subsidence and flooding of the site were thought to have been the factors mainly responsible.

1299 houses were supplied with water direct from the public mains and eight by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.8% of the population of the district received water from the public supply.

Chemical Examination of a sample taken from the tap at 73 Soulbury Road on the 4th June, 1958 was reported upon as follows:-

	Chemical Results in Parts per Million
Appearance	Bright with a few particles
Turbidity	Less than 3
Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
pH	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	15
Electric Conductivity	600
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	400
Chlorine present as Chloride	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness: Total	355
Carbonate	240
Non-Carbonate	115
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Absent

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

"These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The results of two samples taken by an Inspector of the Great Ouse River Board, showed that the effluent from the disposal works was unsatisfactory.

As in previous years, little or no works of maintenance or improvement could be carried out to the disposal works at Old Linslade. This was due in the main to the impending scheme for the construction of new disposal works to be used jointly with Leighton Buzzard.

During the year planning consent for the use of the site for the new works was received, and negotiations were carried on with the owner with regard to the purchase of the necessary land, culminating in the making of a compulsory purchase order which is still awaiting a decision by the Ministry.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Routine house and trade refuse collection was carried out. With labour problems and an increase in residential development, it was found increasingly difficult to maintain the desired weekly collection.

The use of the Leighton Buzzard Refuse Tip was continued on an agreed financial basis.

The collection and sale of waste paper salvage was commenced. A corrugated iron building at the Canal Pumping Station, which had been disused for many years, was successfully dismantled and re-erected at the Springfield Road depot to provide useful storage space.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspections of the canal, river and streams within the Urban District revealed one or two cases of pollution. In an attempt to alleviate the seasonal flooding in Southcott Village, approximately 150 yards of the stream east of Bunker's Lane was cleaned out.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are, unfortunately, no suitable swimming facilities for the public within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was not used during the year.

7. DETAILS OF VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Nuisances and complaints	3
Nuisances abated	nil
Infectious diseases	24
Water tests applied to drains	83
Smoke tests applied to drains	2
Works in progress	180
Sewerage	4
Water supplies	18
Water samples	113
Milk samples	21
Ice cream samples	4
Factories	11
Public conveniences	7
Housing	107
Meat inspection etc.	130
Petroleum Regulations	22
Smoke abatement	1
Miscellaneous visits	318

(D) HOUSING

24 new Council dwellings on Mentmore Road Housing site were occupied during the year. These consisted of 14 houses and 10 bungalows. At the end of the year 10 dwellings were in course of construction on this site.

37 dwellings were completed by private enterprise during the year. Of these, 29 were bungalows on the Golden Riddy Estate.

250 Council houses and 214 private enterprise houses have been built in Linslade since the war.

Inspection of district

The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	9
The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works	Nil
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders ..	5
The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	Nil
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
The number of demolition or closing orders made	5
The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	Nil
The number of houses demolished	Nil

(E) NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, ETC

1. GENERAL

16 complaints were dealt with during the year and 3 informal notices were served.

2. FACTORIES ACT 1937

Eleven inspections of factories were made, and unsuitable sanitary accommodation was found in one case. Defects were remedied in one case by informal action. Form 572 has been completed.

3. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Visits were made as follows:-

Dwelling houses	30
Business premises	2
Agricultural premises	2
Local Authority premises, etc.	4

Sewer inspections were made, and treatment carried out where infestations were noted.

(F) MEAT & OTHER FOODS, FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES, ETC.

Dairies	4
Registered premises, Sec.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.	14
Licensed premises	12
Confectionery	5
Grocery and Greengrocery	12
Butchers	3
Cafes	2
Bakeries	1
Miscellaneous food premises	3
	56

Total number of visits made during the year 14

2. MILK & DAIRIES

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

21 samples were taken from retailers distributing milk in the district. All except two were satisfactory. Investigations revealed that the unsatisfactory samples were caused by dirty containers. The appropriate action was taken, and a higher standard of cleanliness was reached.

3. ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of retail premises were made and four samples were taken all being Grade 1.

4. SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The private slaughterhouse in Ship Road was relicensed for one year.

5. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	98	4	38	616	234
Number inspected	98	4	38	616	234
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	Nil	Nil	7	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	29.6%	Nil	5.3%	1.1%	1.7%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.1%	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.8%
Cysticercosis:	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No horses were slaughtered. One goat was slaughtered.

714 lbs of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was condemned.

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of 33 lbs 4 ozs of other foods.

(G) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

There was an increase in notifications of pneumonia. This occurred in the first and last quarters. In December a mild epidemic of measles commenced.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	1957	1958
Whooping Cough	11	2
Scarlet Fever	Nil	22
Measles	84	30
Pneumonia	16	28
Dysentery	3	8
Erysipelas	Nil	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	1

3. CANCER

There were 8 deaths from cancer during the year compared with 4 in 1957.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There was 1 death from Tuberculosis. 8 cases were notified, 6 of which were transfers into the district.

D.H. WALDRON
Medical Officer of Health.

W. MEREDITH
Public Health Inspector.